

# Homelessness crisis: One in 25 London children lives in temporary accommodation

Pippa Crerar City Hall Editor

ONE in 25 children in London are homeless, figures reveal today.

More than 72,000 young people have no permanent home, with many living in cramped conditions in emergency hostels and B&Bs.

The government figures show four per cent of children are now living in temporary accommodation – a rise of 25 per cent in three years.

It means 80 per cent of all homeless children in England are in the capital.

In some boroughs, including Haringey and Westminster, the figure is as high as one in 10.

Campaigners said they demonstrated the scale of inequality in London, which is also home to hundreds of thousands of millionaires.

Many homeless children live in overcrowded accommodation where they share beds with their siblings and parents. Others are threatened with violence and witness drug use in properties most would view as inappropriate for children.

Figures from the Department for Communities and Local Government were analysed by the House of Commons for

## THE SHAMEFUL TOLL

|                | Children in temp accommodation | % of children in borough |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Haringey       | 5,322                          | 10                       |
| Brent          | 5,140                          | 8                        |
| Newham         | 4,994                          | 7                        |
| Enfield        | 4,879                          | 7                        |
| Tower Hamlets  | 4,245                          | 8                        |
| Croydon        | 4,006                          | 5                        |
| Westminster    | 3,818                          | 11                       |
| Redbridge      | 3,401                          | 5                        |
| Waltham Forest | 3,274                          | 6                        |
| Barnet         | 3,227                          | 4                        |

Figures are for Oct-Dec 2014.  
Source: Department for Communities and Local Govt

Labour MP Tessa Jowell. The analysis showed the four London boroughs with the highest number of young people in temporary accommodation have more homeless children than the rest of the country combined.

Top of the list was Haringey which has 5,322 children – or 10 per cent of all under-18s in the borough – living in temporary homes, followed by Brent with 5,140 children, Newham with 4,994 and Enfield with 4,879. Ms Jowell

a Labour mayoral front-runner said: “These figures shame our city. 70,000 children – the equivalent of every single child in a city the size of Newcastle – have no home.

“We are a city of billionaires and millionaires, yet child homelessness is disgracefully high and rising.

“Inequality is robbing these children of their childhood. We have to build more houses, we have to tackle the inequality in London and we have to start binding our city back together to build one London not two.”

Sir Steve Bullock, London Councils’ housing spokesman said: “London councils are on the front line of the city’s growing homelessness problem. There are 47,020 households living in temporary accommodation, up 11 per cent from the same time a year ago.

“Councils have responded by building new homes themselves but without the help of central government to dramatically increase the number of homes available at truly affordable rents... a growing population means boroughs will continue to operate in a very challenging environment. We must build more homes if we are to reduce homelessness.” @pippacrerar



Cuppa: Chelsea pensioner and Walter Swan enjoy tea at the Ivy's King's Head while Audrey Merton, 91, cheek from friend George

Chelsea pensioners help launch

THE Ivy restaurant in Chelsea with youthful glamour of its 98-year history off marked by a more

A group of about 200 pensioners were invited to tea to mark the opening of The Ivy's King's Head pub in Chelsea Garden, just half a mile from the Royal Hospital. Walter Swan, 91, a former soldier, said: "I used to come to this pub when I was younger, now it's been converted into a nice restaurant."